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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT

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Soviet Zone authorities have made special efforts since 16 February 1951 to recruit specialists of the former Deutsche Lufthansa for East German civil aviation. Erich Waechter, State Secretary in the Soviet Zone Ministry of Traffic, and formerly an administrative official of the Lufthansa, seems to be charged with its reorganization. \*

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3. Waechter made the following remarks with regard to German civil aviation:

a. The Schoenefeld (N 53/Z 93) airfield presently serves civil aviation. It is being used by Soviet and Czech airlines. Waechter was sharply rebuked in the West German press for officially visiting this airfield and reproached for illegally reorganizing Soviet Zone aviation.

b. Waechter stated that he was in charge of planning for the reorganization of civil aviation in the Soviet Zone. However, concrete plans have not yet been formulated because Soviet intentions are still

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unknown. The only work being done in this respect was screening of all former members of the Lufthansa living in the Soviet Zone.

c. In regard to the military training of the Volkspolizei, Waechter said that both the FDJ and the Volkspolizei have done some pilot training. However, as far as he knew, German flying personnel were to be allowed to conduct local flights only under the strictest supervision of the Soviets.

\* [redacted] Comment. Erich Waechter is known as a former member of the German Lufthansa. After the war, he was Minister of Economy in Mecklenburg.

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